

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

RECORDS OF SEVERAL RARE BIRDS FROM NEAR WASHINGTON, D. C.

Colymbus holboelli (Reinh.), *Holboell's Grebe*.—A female was caught alive January 20, 1920, in Prince George Co., Md., just beyond the District Line by Mr. Lewis T. Miller. The specimen is now No. 256899, U. S. N. M.

Oceanites oceanicus (Kuhl), *Wilson's Petrel*.—A bird of this species secured June 27, 1914, was said to have been blown into a boat near Marshall Hall, Md., opposite Mt. Vernon. Mr. Edward S. Schmid, the Washington Taxidermist, received the bird alive, and gave it to Mr. Nelson R. Wood of the U. S. National Museum, who was able to keep it alive for about a week. He reports that the bird was unable to fly, ate only a little meat the first day or so, and was in poor condition. Now No. 236614, U. S. N. M. ♀?

Phalaropus fulicarius (Linn.), *Red Phalarope*.—An apparently unrecorded specimen of the Red Phalarope was received by the U. S. National Museum in the flesh. The bird is a male, secured on October 4, 1897, at White's Ferry, Potomac River, Montgomery Co., Md., by Edward Landvoigt. Now No. 161924, U. S. N. M.

Numenius americanus (Bechst.), *Long-billed Curlew*.—The U. S. National Museum has catalogued a ♀ of this species (No. 12624), that was received by the National Institute on April 11, 1842, and was secured by Mr. William Walker on the Potomac River. This specimen was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution from the Patent Office in 1858, and may be the bird referred to by Prof. W. W. Cooke as "Once taken on the Potomac River." (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXI, 1908, p. 116.)

Charadrius dominicus dominicus (Müller), *Golden Plover*.—A female was secured on March 28, 1911, on Nanjemoy Creek, Md., by Mr. John B. Peyton, No. 213276, U. S. N. M.

Coragyps urubu (Vieill.), *Black Vulture*.—Mr. William Palmer of the U. S. National Museum informs me that in 1918 he observed three of these birds. On August 5th he watched two that were circling over his house at Georgetown. On August 15th he observed a juvenile bird at Chesapeake Beach, Md. Dr. Paul Bartsch reported having recently seen a Black Vulture near Washington, but I have not the exact date. (Proc.

Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVII, 1914, p. 9.) On January 2, 1920, five birds were seen by Mr. H. S. Barber at Plummer's Island, Md., among a number of Turkey Vultures that were circling over a dead hog.

Aquila chrysaetos (Linn.), *Golden Eagle*.—An unusually fine specimen of the Golden Eagle was received in the flesh by the U. S. National Museum recently. The bird was secured by Mr. Brooke B. Gochnauer on March 10, 1919, near Upperville, Fauquier Co., Virginia. Mr. Gochnauer sent the bird to Mr. John A. Baker of Washington who presented it to the National Museum. As the specimen had been drawn the sex could not be determined, but it was an adult bird, probably a male. Mr. George Marshall, who prepared the skin, tells me that he mounted an adult bird, secured, as near as he could remember, in the spring of 1913 or 1914, at or near The Plains, Fauquier County, Va. The specimen had considerable lamb's wool entangled in the talons. The name of the person who shot the bird, and to whom he returned it was Beverly. Another apparently unreported Golden Eagle was received by Mr. Albert E. Colburn, alive, in late December, 1899, or early January, 1900. Mr. J. H. Riley, who examined the specimen at the time, thinks that it came from the Peaks of Otter, Blue Ridge, in western Virginia. On February 5, 1896, two Golden Eagles were received by the National Zoological Park from J. W. Pattison, Wytheville, Wythe Co., Va. One bird died August 6, 1896, and the other lived until October 7, 1904. Both specimens are in the U. S. National Museum collection. There are also several other unrecorded Golden Eagles in the U. S. N. M. collection from Virginia and Maryland taken in the fifties and sixties.—*B. H. Swales.*

COLOR OF SOFT PARTS IN *ANHINGA ANHINGA*.

On February 25, 1919, I killed an adult male Anhinga in the lagoons near West Lake, above Cape Sable at the southern end of Florida, in which the coloration of the mouth and the space about the eye were so striking and remarkable as to merit a description. Certainly no artist who had not handled such birds in the flesh would have depicted these parts as they appeared in life. The culmen of the bird in question was dusky, and the rest of the bill yellowish brown, save for the base of the mandible which was black. The outer surface of the gular sac was dull black. The inside of the mouth was colored as follows; the premaxilla and the mandibular rami were dull yellowish; the margins of the choanæ were whitish, and the rest of the inside of the mouth including the lining of the gular pouch was solid black, forming a background that set off the lighter colors in deep contrast. The iris was deep wine-red. The margin of the eyelids all around was a very bright shade of blue, bordered narrowly by a band of dull green, while the remainder of the lids was black. The lores and a line above the eye were dull yellowish green, a color that extended around posteriorly to a point below the posterior canthus. A blackish line ran through the center of the loreal region back to the eye. The space beneath the eye, extending back to the posterior margin of the bare area, was dull